

Leonard Carson Lambert, Jr. as told to Michael Lambert. *Up From These Hills: Memories of a Cherokee Boyhood*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2011. 199 pp. \$18.95. ISBN 978-0-8032-3536-6.

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Leonard Carson Lambert, an enrolled member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, describes for readers what it was like to be a Cherokee Indian growing up in western North Carolina during the Great Depression. In *Up From These Hills: Memories of a Cherokee Boyhood*, the author depicts how his father often had to find different jobs as a laborer, timber cutter, and Civilian Conservation Corps worker in order to sustain the family through tough economic times. This personal memoir illustrates that the Cherokee Indians were like many other people trying to endure daily hardships as they struggled to find suitable housing or available farmland for raising crops. Perhaps, the most intriguing aspect of the book is the author's description of the educational differences between school systems in western North Carolina. In the Cherokee schools, students attended kindergarten when they were six and first grade when they were seven years old. For the most part, the curriculum was focused on health and hygiene. By contrast, white students entered first grade when they were six years old and learned reading, writing, and mathematics. When not attending school, Leonard Lambert and his siblings always helped their parents around the house with various chores. Eventually, the author had the opportunity to attend Mars Hill College, but he later transferred to North Carolina State College in order to pursue an engineering degree. Despite economic hardships, Leonard Lambert never gave up on his dreams to attend college and always tried to maintain his Cherokee Indian identity in the process.

Essentially, the book is divided into six sections: Lambert family history; life on the family farm near the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians reservation; the Lambert family's relocation and experiences working on a sharecropping farm in eastern Tennessee during the late 1930's; Leonard Carson Lambert's boyhood education at the Mentor School (Mentor, Tennessee); the pursuit of a college education at Mars Hill College and North Carolina State College; and the return home to Cherokee, North Carolina to open up a gift shop with his father and eventual employment with the Aluminum Company of America. Since the book is a personal memoir, there are no illustrations or an extensive bibliography. A genealogical table is included to help readers place the people mentioned in historical context.

Leonard Carson Lambert holds an engineering degree from NC State College and spent 25 years working for ALCOA in different parts of the world. Michael Lambert received a degree in social anthropology from Harvard University and is employed currently as Associate Professor of Anthropology and African Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

This book is intended to offer readers a glimpse into the lives of Cherokee Indian families in western North Carolina during the Great Depression, World War II, and post-war years in the

United States. The author's memoir would be best-suited for inclusion in an academic, public, or special library with a Native American history collection.

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